

Conway Conservation Commission Minutes
Meeting Date, May 13, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road

Present for the Conservation Commission: Tony Somers, Chair; Louise Beckett, Mary Kay Costello

Absent: Jeanne Thomas

Others Present: Sue/Jeff MacFarland; Sue Bridge; Tim O'Reilly, re; Shelburne Falls Road

Inquiries

None

Site Visits

None

Permits

92 West Parsons Drive - may have an intermittent stream. If a resource area Mark Stinson to be consulted.

Forest Cutting Plans

45 Bent Nail Drive
209 South Shirkshire Road

Notifications

Conway-Shelburne - Bridge Preservation, C-20-0 17 - S-II -022 (OH6), Bardwells Ferry Road over Deerfield River; MassDOT Project Number: 613480

Modifications to footers are to be made, but the project is within the original footprint. Tony to ask Mark Stinson for comments.

EC-25-006 BERX Freight Main Emergency Certification-WPA - DEP notification of issuance of an emergency certification for authorization of work to address BERX Freight Main slope failure at milepost 395.80.

Other Unannounced Business

Pine Hill Road Proposed Single Family Dwelling - Tony reviewed submitted building permit plans. Preliminary determination is that limits of disturbance are outside of ConCom jurisdiction. Asked for larger context plan to verify.

Sue MacFarland said that they need to replace their septic, which is across the street, and are working within the septic footprint and easement. Engineer: Question regarding filing NOI/RDA since just replacing. Tony: RDA will be sufficient for recording of replacement septic within

septic footprint and established septic easement Sue: Has gone through BOH approval. Tony: Include plans for septic in RDA.

Discussion of Commissioner's stipend.

Tabled

Public Records Request from Tighe & Bond for Parcels LD: 413-073-000, 0 Johnny Bean Road, 174.8 acres owned by WD Cowsls, Inc., and 416-054-000,0 Town Fann Road, 258 acres owned by WD Cowsls, Inc. No records found for parcels in question.

Tim O'Reilly is helping to build a home on 255 Shelburne Falls Road. Survey has been done; perc test scheduled. Buildable area outside of the 100 ft. wetlands area but within the 100 ft outer RFA. Proposed septic. House and driveway outside of resource areas. Site visit? Tony said we will schedule one. New culvert at Emerson Hollow. Backyard ADUs.

Pumpkin Hollow Church: On April 17, Tony Somers attended site walk with Jeanne Thomas, Sandy Hay, and Roger Goshea, to assess erosion at the church and plans to build up the southern lawn area. Building up of lawn and reseeded did not seem to be an issue and erosion controls are still in place. Erosion near the driveway, in concert with back cutting of stone sewer trench is undercutting stormwater infrastructure. Recommended they work with their contractor to resolve issue and come back to the commission with viable remedies.

Beaver Dam Removal: On April 17, Tony Somers, Jeanne Thomas, Ron Sweet and Town administrator Véronique Blanchard met on Maple Street by the Maggs property to review beaver dam obstructions cthe were causing water to back up into the culvert under Maple Street. Discussed that the dam be downstream of the culvert would resolve potential flooding of Maple Street; however, there were concerns around how machinery could get to the dam through adjacent saturated wetlands. Highway department to look into options that would least impact access and breach the dam.

Conway Town Field: On April 17, Tony Somers, Jeanne Thomas, Ron Sweet and Véronique Blanchard met behind the tennis courts to discuss stormwater infrastructure failure resulting in the inundation of the tennis courts and surrounding lawn area during rain events. Group to look into options to unearth what is believed to be a detention basin beneath the parking area retaining wall in order to relieve stormwater blockages and restore flow to vegetated stormwater conveyance.

Hearings

None

All interested parties are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held in person at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road.

Next Meeting: June 10, 6:00 p.m. Town Hall General Purpose room.

On a motion by Tony to adjourn at 6:35 p.m., Louise seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.